



Eastern Districts Chronicle.

No. 1.—Vol. I.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31st, 1877.

4d.



THE

"EASTERN DISTRICTS' CHRONICLE"

WILL be published at York every WEDNESDAY MORNING in time for the Northam and Newcastle Mails, the first number to appear on the 31st October, 1877.

TERMS—Fifteen shillings per ann., single copies, 4d. On receipt of four shillings, the paper will be forwarded for one quarter.

Advertisements will be inserted at the following rate:—For eight lines, one insertion, 3s. 6d.; additional lines, 3d. each; succeeding insertions, half-price. Special arrangements made with advertisers who wish their advertisements to appear for a lengthened period.

The paper will be conducted on Liberal principles, advocating all that will promote the welfare of the colony—the Eastern Districts particularly. The Proprietor hopes by supplying a long-expressed want, to receive the support a medium on all topics of public interest may deserve.

JOB PRINTING

of every description executed with despatch on reasonable terms.

Address GEORGE INKPEN, York.

MR. E. KAY COURTHOPE has been appointed Agent for this Journal at Newcastle.

Intending Subscribers.

THE first issue of this Journal will be forwarded to many persons who have not signified their intention of becoming subscribers. We shall be obliged if such persons will kindly communicate their consent or otherwise.

Newcastle.

E. KAY COURTHOPE,

Auctioneer and Commission Merchant.

SOLE COUNTRY AGENT

FOR

FERGUSON & MUMME'S Beverages.

PUBLIC SALES of Goods, Houses, Estates, and Live Stock, held in any part of the colony. Instructions by Post or Telegraph promptly attended to.

Paddocks and Storage provided, when required.

All description of Produce and Merchandise bought and sold on commission.

Indents executed to the best advantage in all the Home and Colonial Markets.

E. KAY COURTHOPE, begs to notify that Mr. E. B. COURTHOPE of South Perth, is empowered to arrange Auctions and act as his Agent generally at Perth and elsewhere.
Newcastle, October, 1877.

"On! Stanley, on!" SCOTT.

Stanley Brewery.

PROPRIETORS:

D. W. HARWOOD & Co.

THE proprietors, in soliciting a continuance of the patronage hitherto extended to the Stanley Brewery respectfully announce to their customers, the Trade and the Public generally, that they have, at considerable outlay, secured skilful hands to conduct the BREWING and REFINING processes of the business, together with an unlimited supply of imported malt, mashing grain, and other materials of unexceptionable quality, to warrant them in saying that they can hereafter supply the trade with

ALES AND PORTER

that will effectually combat the notion that the colonial brew must necessarily be inferior to the imported article. Drawn from cask, the Stanley Ale and Porter are deliciously palatable, while the bottled article, which is highly charged with carbonic acid gas generated in the bottle, is simply superior.

D. W. H. & CO.

are recognised as the best producers in the colony of

AERATED WATERS

comprising the following beverages—

LEMONADE, GINGER BEER, SODA WATER, and TONIC.

(The latter is especially recommended by the medical profession.)

D. W. H. & CO.

Have also on hand a variety of

CORDIALS,

Comprising Raspberry Vinegar, Lemon Syrup, Peppermint, and Cloves.

These delicious preparations possess an acidity, blended with a degree of sweetness, that renders them, when diluted with water, a very agreeable and refreshing summer beverage. Their stock of cordials is ten per cent. cheaper than can be imported.

D. W. H. & Co.

Invite attention to their very superior stock of pure and unadulterated

COLONIAL WINES,

which will compare favorably with imported brands.

The trade dealt with on liberal and advantageous terms.

Orders in Perth are delivered at customers' residences, free of charge, daily, from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m., and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Country Orders punctually and carefully attended to.

D. W. HARWOOD & CO.,

STANLEY BREWERY.

Perth, October 8th, 1877.

NEWCASTLE

AMAZING BARGAINS!

E. KAY COURTHOPE

Is instructed by the Importers to Sell by Auction at his Sale Room, on FRIDAY, the 2nd of NOV., 1877, (day after the Newcastle Races.)

A MAGNIFICENT ASSORTMENT of Clothing, Drapery, &c.

ALSO,—

Lamps, Jewelry, Fancy Ware, Side Saddle, Trap Harness, Sewing Machine and Sled.

TERMS LIBERAL.

Refreshments will be provided.

Sale at 10 o'clock sharp.

GRAND DRAWING OF PRIZES

IN AID OF

RECHABITE'S NEW HALL,

YORK.

THE public are most respectfully informed that the above Drawing of Prizes, advertised to take place on the Fair Day, is unavoidably POSTPONED to 26th December, 1877, (Boxing Day). Drawing to take place in New Hall, by which day the committee hope to have it ready for opening.

Fri. n's having books will please return them with cash (as soon as they are sold) to the undersigned.

JOSEPH PYKE.

Secretary to the I.O.G. Building Committee.

York, Oct. 13th, 1877.

Swan Brewery,

St. George's Terrace, Perth.

PROPRIETORS:

FERGUSON & MUMME.

FERGUSON & MUMME beg to return thanks for the largely increased patronage they have received since removing to their present commodious premises where, by the command of greater and improved appliances, they are enabled to supply the market with

PURE MALT LIQUORS,

palatable and wholesome, and pronounced by the best medical authority to be more suitable for consumption in this colony than the imported article.

ALE AND STOUT,

of the best quality, in bulk and bottle, and AERATED WATERS, LEMONADE, AND GINGER BEER

supplied in any quantity to the Trade and Private Families.

Several very choice samples of

OLD COLONIAL WINES.

Orders promptly despatched.

Special attention devoted to indents from the country.

Mr. E. KAY COURTHOPE has been appointed sole agent for the disposal of our beverages in the Eastern districts.

FERGUSON & MUMME.

Perth, October, 1877.

FOR SALE.

600 Prime Mixed Sheep.

IN equal quantities of two tooth, four tooth, and six tooth. Now in the possession of Mr. C. Glass on woolrent. Will be delivered as soon as shorn. May be purchased with or without the wool.

ALSO,—

From 60 to 80 head of HORNED CATTLE of all descriptions.

For further particulars apply to

THOMAS WILDING,
Mokine,
Near Northam.

October, 1877.

SPECIAL

ANNOUNCEMENT.

JOSEPH PYKE, Bootmaker and Leather-Cutter, begs to apprise his numerous customers that he is about to remove to more commodious premises in Avon Terrace, next door to Mr. Hoops, and hopes to receive a continuation of that support hitherto accorded him.

A supply of Leather always on hand suitable for the market.

SANDALWOOD.

The highest price given for the best samples.

Every description of Colonial Produce bought, sold, or exchanged.

A liberal discount allowed on all Cash transactions
York, October, 1877

CIRCULAR.

THOMAS TOMKINSON, Builder and Contractor, York, returns his sincere thanks to the public for the liberal patronage hitherto extended to him, and trusts to merit a continuance.

A stock of Building Material always on hand.

Every care bestowed in executing orders from a distance.

None but competent men employed in the trade.

Valuations made at the usual rate.

A stock of Window and Door Frames and Sashes for sale.

Notice.

TO LET, with possession on the 1st day of January next, the

Newcastle and Freemasons' Hotel,

which is at present occupied by Mr. M. Ryan.

For further particulars,

Apply to

D. CONNOR.

Newcastle, 17th Oct., 1877.

NOTICE.

SINCE striking off the first page we discovered ourselves somewhat in error in announcing that we would publish on a Wednesday morning. To meet the wishes of our friends at Beverley (as the alteration will not affect Northam and Newcastle) we will issue the "EASTERN DISTRICTS' CHRONICLE" every

Saturday Morning

in time for the Northam and Newcastle Mails.

THE
Eastern Districts' Chronicle.

Let all the ends thou aim'st at,
Be thy country's, Thy God's and truth's.—
SHAKESPEARE.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, 1877.

OURSELVES.

We hope to make the *Eastern Districts' Chronicle* of such value that it will become a lasting boon to its readers, and be found remunerative to the Proprietor. To accomplish this we are fully alive to the difficulties that will beset us in our career. Our motto then must be—"On, on, till the victory's won." For a journalist to imagine that he has nothing more to do than issue his paper is a fallacy. There is much to be thought of beyond this, and our intimate acquaintance with the Press has taught us lessons which we need be aware of.

It has been rather freely circulated that the *Eastern Districts' Chronicle* is to be a "temperance paper;" this, to our mind, is but an invention emanating from some enemy to us. To such a report we give our most unqualified denial, and assure our readers that the *Eastern Districts' Chronicle* will be found to be the organ of no particular party or sect.

It has long been considered by many that a newspaper in the Eastern Districts would be a want supplied, and its establishment thereby open up a medium for free expression of opinion on matters directly affecting the interests of these districts. Not because the columns of the other local papers are closed, but to have a paper in the midst of the settlers would offer many advantages which cannot be obtained through the other journals in the colony.

We shall endeavor to meet the wants of the settlers in every possible way by giving insertion to matters as may seem to them of interest so long as the writing is not of too personal a nature, and which would be likely to involve us in any controversy that would lead to unpleasant results.

Those of our friends who have abstained as yet from giving us their names as subscribers, and who may be "waiting to see what it is like," we trust, will decide in our favor.

Correspondence is invited on all local matters, and we shall be happy to receive any assistance our friends may be disposed to render us.

Advertisers will find this journal a valuable medium for advertising in the Eastern Districts. Arrangements will be made for the appearance of the latest news from Perth and Fremantle in each issue.

We hope to win the confidence of all classes, and to be able to look back with pleasure to the day that gave birth to the "Eastern Districts' Chronicle."

In another column will be found all particulars as to terms of subscription, &c.

AN OLD COLONIST.—We are informed that our much-respected fellow-colonist Mr. L. C. Burges is expected to arrive by the incoming mail steamer from Galle. Whether it is his intention to remain in the colony we have not heard.

LOCAL TOPICS.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—We have to record a sad and fatal accident which occurred some few miles from Northam on Sunday evening last. It appears that a young woman named Mary Pilkington, about 18 years of age, daughter of a small farmer in the neighborhood of Irishtown, was returning from her father's house on her way to Mr. Dempster's at Buckland, in company with a little boy, when the horse she was riding suddenly became unmanageable, bolted and fell, throwing her violently to the ground, and breaking her neck. An inquest was held on Monday morning, when the Jury returned a verdict of "accidental death."

CONCERT AND BAZAAR.—A Concert was held in the new Catholic Church on the nights of Monday and Tuesday, the 22nd and 23rd Instant. The attendance was very good. Mr. Glennan's powers as a Ventriloquist are no doubt of no mean order, but owing to a violent cold he was suffering from on both occasions, he was unable to effect what he has the talent to perform under different circumstances. As a comic vocalist he is "all there." We hear about £27 were taken the two nights. A Bazaar was also held on the Fair Day and the day of the Races, in the new Catholic Church, at which a splendid assortment of goods was exhibited. The amount realized we have not yet heard, but a considerable sum must have been taken.

WESLEYAN BAZAAR AND TEA-MEETING.—A Bazaar was held in the Girls' Schoolroom on the Fair Day. A Tea-meeting was also held on the night of the Races in the Mechanics' Hall, York, which was well attended.

CONCERT.—On the Fair night a Concert was held in the Mechanics' Hall. The programme was of a varied character and tastefully arranged. The ladies and gentlemen who assisted on the occasion acquitted themselves very creditably. Our indefatigable fellow townsman, Dr. Hope, again took a leading part in its arrangement. The proceeds were devoted to the Mechanics' Institute.

THE COLONIAL MAILS.—We would direct the attention of the Post-office authorities to the fact that any alteration in the departure of mails after the Time Table has been once published, is likely to cause considerable inconvenience, especially to persons in business, and should be notified by other means than merely altering the original advertisement in the *Government Gazette*, which paper is only seen and read by a few. Owing to the belief that the Mails for the Colonies would leave York on Saturday, the 27th instant, as at first advertised, the letters of several persons were found to be too late on presentation at the York Post-office, the Mail leaving Perth for Albany on that date.

BUSH-RANGING.—The convicts Burnside and Saunders who have been at large for some time were captured near Bunbury by the Police. They have not had a long run; at any rate, they will enjoy a little rest after their tramp, which must have been anything but pleasant, as on the 8th Oct. they were at Chittering Brook, and ten days after were arrested at Bunbury.

HUMAN REMAINS.—It is reported that the remains of a person have been discovered somewhere near Gingin. Inquiries are being instituted as to the identity, but as yet we have not heard the result.

THE VISIT OF BISHOP PARRY.—On Sunday, (to-morrow), the Service of Confirmation will be held; and on Tuesday, the 6th inst., a Concert and Tea-meeting will be held in the Mechanics' Hall, on which occasion the Bishop will address the Meeting. A tea-fight for the 'young fry' will be held on Thursday.

YORK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The following were the successful competitors:—For Horses: 1st prize, best imported blood horse, Mr. J. T. Monger's Taragon. 1st prize, best imported cart horse, Mr. J. Taylor's Glander. No competition in either class. 1st prize, best colonial cart horse, Mr. H. Leeder's Dragon. Certificate of merit awarded Mr. S. S. Parker for Wanderer. 1st prize, Mr. T. Wilding's Spectre for breeding for exportation. Certificate of merit awarded Mr. S. E. Burges for Rocket. Best mare for do., Mr. S. E. Burges' Miss Red Hart. Certificate of merit awarded Mr. H. Brockman's Princess. Best colonial cart mare, Mr. H. Leeder's Debby. Certificate of merit was awarded Mr. J. Lott's Darkey. For (attle: best Bull, Mr. S. E. Burges; best cow, Mr. H. Lukin. For Sheep: best imported fine wool rams, Mr. H. Cook; long wool do., Mr. J. Taylor; best colonial long wool do., Mr. H. Cook; best cross-bred rams, Mr. J. W. Parker; best fat wethers, Mr. John Lott; best ewe tugs, Mr. R. Scott; best lambs, Mr. John Lott. For Pigs: best boar and best sow, Mr. R. Gallop. Poultry: best cock and hen, Mr. R. Gallop. Vegetables: best yellow turnips and potatoes, Mr. R. Gallop; best cabbages, Mr. S. Taylor; best carrots, Mr. H. Duckham. We regret not having been able to be present at the Society's Dinner which, we hear, passed off very well. The viands were very good, and the arrangement excellent—in fact, it is nothing unusual for the "Castle Hotel," as it may be said to rank equal to any house in the colony for furnishing spreads on such occasions. Several gentlemen, including the Colonial Secretary, spoke, but what was said nobody seems to know. If the Colonial Secretary said no more than he did at Beverley, he said but little.

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME.

This good old adage may be very appropriately turned to account in considering the question which has been submitted to the various Municipal Councils by Mr. GEORGE SHENTON. That the news of a terrible famine spreading throughout the Indian Empire, with all its terrible consequences, should evoke a feeling of sympathy in the minds of the colonists, rousing them to deeds of benevolence, is but natural, and it is a well-known characteristic of the English race that the cry of distress, from whatever quarter of the globe it may arise, is sure to be followed by united action on our part. That our zeal in this respect is too often misdirected is an indisputable fact, and that any misdirection at the present juncture with all the hideous features of another wretched season staring us in the face would be productive of serious consequences, is not less so, and should guide us in our deliberations on this subject. That anything momentous is likely to arise out of this appeal to the people we are not disposed to admit, nor do we for a moment apprehend there will be cause for alarm on the score of "too free giving" for our convictions point unmistakably to the belief that but a small minority of our settlers are sufficiently independent to be large-hearted, in the ordinary acceptance of the term, while many are not even solvent, and therefore their givings must of necessity be limited. But this is not the position we would assume with reference to our text. Western Australia is a poor colony, undoubtedly the poorest of the Australian group, with a struggling population of only 26,000 souls, who, to use a hackneyed phrase are living from hand to mouth, without any prospect of improvement, hampered with a restrictive Constitution framed in the dark ages, and framed so that the rich man perpetually lives on the poor man, grinding out his very existence, and placing him somewhat in the position of a *serf*. That such a limited population even under the most exceptionally favorable circumstances would be able to do anything towards the relief of sixty millions of starving Indians is but a romantic idea, and when considered in connection with our present state, at a time when every industry is more or less stagnated, and the people dependent on their neighbors for a supply of the necessary element to their existence, with a tendency to anything but improvement, the absurdity of the thing is intensified in the highest degree. Here we are talking of doing something to alleviate the sufferings of India's millions—the land that even *her* of its princely palaces erected in two centuries at a cost of a million or so of money without any ostensible object beyond the reception of the Prince of Wales, whose wealth of a single native prince would in a great many cases far exceed that of our whole colony, and where England has been obliged to interpose her authority to prevent these princes from accumulating such immense sums of money as at Gwalior and Cashmere,—simply ignoring the dread picture painted for us at home and not too vividly painted either. Let us look to the wants of our own struggling poor first, and if it be found necessary, which it undoubtedly will be, judging from the lamentable reports which reach our ears daily of the unwelcome appearance of blight and red rust among the crops, let the Government step in and shew themselves equal to the occasion by importing a supply of flour, and selling it out in small quantities at such a rate as not to press unduly on their small earnings, and thereby relieve them of the burden which is too often thrust upon them through the selfishness of those who, while they preach Charity, seldom find courage to practise it. When this has been effected, let us turn our attention to India.

YORK RACES, 1877.

THURSDAY, 25TH OCTOBER.

Stewards—S. H. Parker, S. E. Burges, Jun., E. Hamersley, E. B. Lennard, G. Monger, and H. Lukin, Esqrs.

CLERK OF THE COURSE—JAS. PARKER, Esq.

STARTER—J. W. PARKER, Esq.

JUDGE—J. T. MONGER, Esq., M.L.C.

HON. SECRETARY—J. W. HOPE, Esq., M.D.

1st Race.—MAIDEN PLATE of £25, one mile and 240 yards, heats, weights for age. Entrance £2 10s.

Mr. M. Craig's g. m. *Sylph*, aged, 9st. 6lbs., Cook, orange and blue. ... 2 1 1
Mr. W. Strickland's br. g. *Deerfoot*, aged, 9st. 6lbs., Slater, crimson and white. ... 2 3
Mr. G. Parker's g. g. *Hermit*, aged, 9st. 6lbs., Owner, cerise and white. ... 3 2
Mr. Wilding's ch. g. *Trappist*, aged, 9st. 6lbs., Brennan, blue jacket and red cap.
Mr. T. Davey's cr. m. *Clover*, 4 years, 8st. 11lbs., Games, red and white.

The running in this race was between *The Sylph*, *Hermit*, and *Deerfoot*. In the first heat it was evident the mare had her work until reaching the run in, when the brown gelding gradually fell off, leaving the hours to the mare. Time 2m. 14s. In the second heat the mare had it pretty well from first to last. Time 2m. 16s.

2nd Race.—YORKSHIRE STAKES of £25, 3 miles, one event, Queen's Plate weights. Entrance £2 10s.

Dr. Hope's ch. m. *Syren*, aged 10st. 11lb., G. Parker, orange and blue.
Mr. W. Strickland's b. g. *Vanbrook*, aged, 10st. 11lb., Slater, crimson and white.

A splendid race nearly the whole way. When about 100 yards from the stand the struggle took place, but as soon as the whip was applied *Vanbrook* would not answer, and the mare came in an easy winner. It may truly be said to have been well-contested, and had the gelding not swerved when he did, no doubt the race would have been much closer than it was. Time 6m. 16s.

3rd Race.—PONY RACE, one and a half mile, heats, for saddle and bridle, value Five Pounds; for Ponies not exceeding 13 hands 3 inches in height. Catch weights. Post entrance.

This race was won by Mr. Parker's *Punch*. There were two heats; time, 3m. 17s., and 3m. 19s.

4th Race.—LADIES' PURSE of £15, one and a half mile; heats; weights for age. Entrance 30s.

Dr. Hope's ch. m. *Syren*, aged, 9st. 6lbs., Cook, orange and blue. ... 2 1 1
Mr. Wilding's b. g. *Deerfoot*, aged, 9st. 6lbs., Brennan, blue jacket and red cap. ... 1 2 2
Mr. G. Parker's g. g. *Hermit*, aged, 9st. 6lbs., Owner, cerise and white. ... 3 drn.

There were three heats run in this race. The first heat was taken by *Deerfoot*, the mare running very close. Time 3m. In the second heat the mare had it without much trouble. Time 3m. 2s. The third heat was won by the mare with about the same lead in advance as she obtained soon after starting. Time 3m. (s).

5th Race.—HACK RACE; 1½ mile. Entrance 10s.

This Race was won by Mr. R. Sheehy.

Everything passed off well, and we saw but little to complain about. No accidents, with the exception of a spill or two, occurred of a serious nature. It is really marvellous that there are not some casualties to chronicle, considering the number that worship so freely at the shrine of Bacchus on these occasions. We noticed an unusual sprinkling of the fair sex on the Course, and taken altogether the Races of 1877 were quite up to the previous year, if not better. The weather was cool and most people appeared to enjoy the day's outing. We noticed many visitors from Perth and the other districts. Among them may be mentioned the Colonial Secretary and Sir Luke Leake.

POETRY.

Katie's answer.

Och, Katie's a rouge, it is true;
But her eyes, like the skies, are so blue.
An' her dimples so swate,
An' her ankles so nate,
She dazed, and she bothered me, too—

Till one morning we went for a ride,
When demure as a bride, by my side,
The darlint, she sat,
With the wickedest hat
'Neath purty girl's chin ever tied.

An' me heart, arrah, thin, how it bated—
For me Katie looked so temptin' an' swate,
Wild cheeks like the roses,
An' all the red pokes
That grew in her garden so nate.

But I sat just as mute as the dead,
Till she said, wid a toss uv her head,
"If I'd known that to-day
Y'd have nothin' to say,
I'd have gone with my cousin instade."

Thin I fit meself grow very bowld,
For I knew she'd not scold if I towld
Uv the love at my heart,
That would never depart
Though I lived to be wrinkled an' owld.

An' I said, "If I dared to do so,
I'd hit go uv this baste, and I'd throw
Boo! arms round yer watie,
An' be stealin' a taste
Uv thin lips that coaxed me so."

Thin she blushed a more illigant red,
And she said widout raisin' her head,
An' her eyes lookin' down,
"Neath her lashes so brown,
"Would yer like to drive, Mister Ted?"

—SOUTH-EASTERN STAR.

NEWCASTLE RACES.—The following were the winners:—

MAIDEN PLATE—Jas. Clinch's Novelty.
NEWCASTLE STAKES—W. Strickland's *Vanbrook*.

LADIES' PURSE—J. Clinch's Novelty.
TROTTER RACE—C. S. Monger's Kitty.

PONY RACE—J. McDermott's Fanny.
HACKS—B. D. Clarkson's horse.

The attendance on the Course was very good.

We regret to hear of the death of the wife of R. A. Sholl, Esq., Chief Clerk in the Post-office, which happened at Perth yesterday morning after a short illness.

BEVERLEY FAIR.

THE Annual Show of Stock under the auspices of the Beverley Agricultural Society took place on the Show Ground, on Friday, the 19th inst. The attendance of spectators was not large, notwithstanding the varied and attractive programme, owing in a great measure to the extreme dryness of the season and to its being held just in the middle of shearing. The day was unusually hot for the time of year, and the sheep suffered much in consequence, there being no covering provided for them. Upwards of thirty lots of sheep were penned, some of which were indeed very fine. Cattle were not too well represented, for, with the exception of one or two lots there were none deserving of especial mention. Only one thorough bred entire put in an appearance, but in the heavier breeds there was tolerably fair competition. The horses as a rule looked remarkably well, and reflected great credit on their owners. The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, who arrived on the ground about 11 a.m., together with Sir L. S. Leake and several other gentlemen, made a personal inspection of the stock and expressed themselves well pleased. The Judges, amongst whom we noticed those well-known connoisseurs Messrs. J. H. Monger, R. D. Harley, and Robert Scott, performed their arduous duties to the best of their ability, and we understand succeeded in giving satisfaction to all concerned. The Dinner was held at the "Settlers' Arms" at 1.30 p.m., where nearly forty persons partook of a capital spread provided by mine host Mr. Harden York. As a matter of course the reception of such distinguished guests as the Colonial Secretary and Sir Luke Leake naturally led to much speculating, this being the first occasion on which either of these gentlemen had visited that township, and the opportunity was availed of by the leading settlers in making known the wants of the district. The Colonial Secretary in replying to the toast of his health, thanked the settlers for the very cordial reception extended to him, and assured them of his earnest desire to make himself not only personally known to them, but understood, and although he was not in a position to speak definitely on any of the leading political questions of the day, he would nevertheless tell them that in arranging a programme for the future he would not lose sight of the great want of better internal communication, which must necessarily retard not only the progress of the Eastern Districts, but of the whole colony. He was disposed to regard the action of the Council in declining the proposal for a monthly steam service to the Colonies lately put forward by Messrs. Lilly & Co., as a mistake, but as this matter was disposed of prior to his arrival in their midst he deemed it better to leave the explanation to other speakers. The Eastern districts so far as he had yet seen them offered many attractions, and had many pleasing features; and on the whole, he certainly did not regret having taken the trip. The hon. gentleman was loudly cheered on resuming his seat, and it was evident that the applause was an indication of the favorable impression he had made upon his hearers.

Sir Luke Leake complimented his friend the Colonial Secretary on the success of his maiden speech, notwithstanding the ups and downs with which he had contended, and said he hoped that the settlers would not be led to think for one moment that the Council had overlooked the interests of their constituents in the matter of either Railways or Steamboats. As to the former he thought it prudent to await the arrival of Sir Harry Ord, our new Governor, whose opinion as an eminent engineer, would be exceedingly valuable. Referring to the proposal for a steam service to the colonies he could assure them that, had the matter assumed anything like a definite shape, the Council would not have passed it over as they did. Sir Luke though he had been so many years in the colony had never before been so far south of York, and certainly was surprised at the success they had achieved. He congratulated them warmly. He saw many familiar faces around him, some who were his schoolfellows sat at that table, and he sincerely hoped that this would not be his only visit to the district.

Mr. Smith, one of the oldest settlers in Beverley, spoke warmly on the Railway question, advocating the commencement of the proposed line from Guildford towards York, instead of Fremantle, and thought it a "crying shame" that the interests of the Eastern districts should be thus sacrificed.

Several speakers followed, but owing to the irregularity of the crowd around the building it was impossible to understand a word from them. The Annual Meeting of the Society was held somewhat later in the day, when those who had been successful with their exhibits were duly disposed of with a cheque for the amount of their respective prizes.

Old English Sports, such as foot-racing, jumping, &c., were the order of the day outside, a programme having been arranged by Mr. Lennard, and some cash supplied by a few for the purpose.

A Bazaar in aid of the Beverley Parsonage was also a success, the fair vendors counting out something to the tune of £50, as proceeds at the close of the day.

The "Avon Minstrels" from York were announced to give a performance in the evening on behalf of the York Mechanics' Institute, but from some reason best known to themselves the performance "didn't come off." The York

Band played a few tunes at the Bazaar, and again in the evening, but their programme was not sufficiently attractive to make it a "paying concern."

The proceedings of the day closed with a dance at the "Settlers' Arms," where the lovers of "terpsichore" thoroughly enjoyed themselves till near midnight. There was comparatively little drunkenness, the police having most trouble in getting rid of the natives who assembled in large numbers on this occasion.

MEMORIAL.

THE following Memorial is now being handed about for signature:—

To His Excellency Major-General Sir HARRY ST. GEORGE ORD, R.E., K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Western Australia, &c., &c.

THE Memorial of the undersigned, inhabitants of the united districts of York and Beverley, and the united districts of Toodyay and Northam,

HUMBLY SHEWETH:—

That these districts have now been settled over 44 years; that owing to circumstances over which we had no control, the progress of settlement and the cultivation of the land has not advanced in a proper ratio, commensurate with the natural capabilities of the country.

That along the valley of the Avon, a distance of over one hundred miles, there are nearly 500,000 acres of land fit for corn-growing. That up to last year only 18,159 acres of this land were brought into cultivation, 8,259 acres of which were under wheat. That owing to our distance (75 miles) from the shipping port, and the hilly and bad roads over which we have to convey our produce, we find we cannot compete with importers from Adelaide. That in the last eighteen months over £45,000 has been sent away for flour, in addition to a large amount for horse corn. That if we had a cheaper mode of transit to the nearest water carriage at the town of Guildford, we could not only supply all local wants, but produce sufficient, in ordinary seasons, to create a large export trade. That under the existing order of things it costs fourteen pence to send a bushel of wheat to Fremantle, while the importer can land it there at under sixpence.

That in the face of so many disadvantages, it is not surprising that wheat-growing has been only a secondary consideration, and in a great measure has been superseded by the Sandalwood trade which, although a lucrative business for the Merchant, returns but a miserable pittance to the cutters and carriers.

That if the cost of carriage was reduced to 6d. per bushel, wheat-growing would pay the small farmer much better than sandalwood carting; more land would be cultivated, more employment created for expected immigrants, and the general revenue augmented by the larger consumption of imports. Thus the whole colony would be benefited, the inhabitants of the towns supplied with good sound home-grown flour; and the cost of all other articles of general consumption considerably reduced.

Should these Districts be connected by rail with the water carriage at Guildford we could compete with corn-growers in any part of the world.

That it is the decided opinion of men of all classes and shades of politics, that the time has come when money must be borrowed for public works on a large scale, and that the first and most beneficial public work would be the commencement of a Railway starting from the Swan at Guildford and extending to these Eastern Districts by such a route as will confer the greatest benefit on our united districts and the general public.

Your Memorialists, moreover, feel confident such a line would benefit the colony much more than the contemplated line from Fremantle to Guildford; added to this we fear that should this line, running close to a good navigable river be commenced, none of the present generation will see it continued to the Eastern Districts, and they fail to see how it would benefit their present position, as goods can now be conveyed from Guildford by the present river steamers cheaper than by rail.

The present traffic on our road is larger than in any other part of the colony. We send down now 4000 tons of the Exports. That at the last census the inhabitants were one-fifth of the whole population, that we possess over one-third of the sheep, one-third of the horses, one-sixth of the cattle, and one-half the swine in the colony. That the present traffic would be quadrupled in a few years by a Railway. That the line must necessarily run through a well-timbered tract of country, and open up much land fit for settlement. That there is little doubt it would pay interest, working expenses, and leave a considerable margin for profit. Whereas the Fremantle and Guildford line would have to contend with the existing river steamers, which would, in all probability, still get a large share of the carrying trade, considerably reducing their receipts, and it is more than doubtful if it would pay working expenses, and is such a line as a small and struggling community such as we are cannot afford to borrow money to construct.

Your Memorialists therefore earnestly pray that your Excellency will take this their Memorial into your most serious consideration, and come to such a conclusion between these two projected lines, as will confer the most lasting benefit on the whole colony,

And your Memorialists will, as in duty bound, for ever pray.

THE MAN OF FIGURES.

He was a man of figures, and when he read the sign, "Five good ten cent cigars for twenty-five cents," he whipped out his Faber, yelled "Eureka," turned a cart wheel, and was inside that cigar shop before the dust had lifted.

"Gimme five of them here ten cent cigars," he yelled, and the proprietor kicked a hole through a twenty dollar mirror in his hurry to fulfil the order.

"Ten more," he yelled, and the living statues standing around, wreathed in smoke, stared, and thought they were looking at a real Cabinet officer.

"Twenty more," he shouted, and the proprietor began to think about enlarging his premises on the morrow.

"Five more, and bustle around here," was his next command, and the shopkeeper hustled as he never had done before, while his fat Teutonic face shone like a locomotive head-light, and his little eyes glistened with delight at the thought of so much coming wealth.

"Forty more," roared the man of figures, and the loungers gathered around him and asked him if he did not own a Nevada silver mine.

He disdained to reply, and without casting a look at them he went to work with pencil and paper like a steam engine.

"Making out the bill," chuckled the proprietor, and he took down three shelves and stepped through a new show case in an attempt to get at more of the precious cigars.

At last the man of figures struck his reckoning and he mused in this wise:

"Let's see, five ten cent cigars for twenty-five cents. That's ten ten-cent cigars for twelve and a half cents."

"Vot's dot," piped the shop owner, turning blue behind the ears.

"Twenty ten cent cigars for six o-e-quarter cents."

"Vot," roared the Teuton, "Bo lice. Sha obged a grub. Shosephine bring a gittle and schald dis tam tief."

"Forty ten cent cigars for three o-e-eighth cents."

"You pays me or dot show case, dose segars twenty dollars for dat looking glas, right away quick. Of you dont sometimes may strike you between your two ears, you Tom Collins, Muldoon Irish loaf r y u."

"Lighty ten cent cigars for one nine-tieth cents," murmured the "M.O.F.," and then he totted out of the door, followed by a bull dog, a jar of fire cut tobacco, Jacob with a club, and Josephine with a kettle of hot water, while the proprietor, who had fainted after throwing the jar, was undergoing repairs to his person and stock at the hands of his body guard of animated statues.

Moral.—Shopkeepers, imitate the reporter and George Washington by never telling a lie.

STOLEN or strayed from York—one black gelding, about 14 hands high, branded LX on near side, and on near shoulder. Also, one black mare, one white hind fetlock, branded on near shoulder, about 18 hands high. Any person giving such information to the undersigned as will lead to their recovery will be liberally rewarded.

GEORGE COLLINS.

York, Oct. 31, 1877.

IMPOUNDED on the 22nd instant—One Bay Mare, black points, star in forehead, collar and saddle marked, several spots and scars on back, branded on near side under saddle AS with blotch above, 15 hands 14 inch high.

ALSO—

A Black Filly, branded K on off side under saddle, belonging to the above mare, 13 hands high. Supposed to be the property of Mr. E. Knott. They will be sold on the 22nd November next to pay expenses.

JOSEPH PYKE,

Poundkeeper, York.
York, Nov. 2, 1877.

Holloway's Pills.

Impurity of the Blood.

UNLESS the blood be kept in a pure state the constitution must be weakened, and disease supervene. These wonderful Pills possess the power of removing or neutralizing all contaminations of the blood and system generally. They quietly but certainly, overcome all obstructions tending to produce ill health, and institute regular action in organs that are faulty from irritation or debility. The dyspeptic, weak, and nervous may rely on these Pills as their best friend and comforter, as they act upon the main spring of life, and thus save thousands from a premature grave.

Complaints of Women and Children.

The very mild and painless action of these invaluable Pills recommends them to every household as a remedy for the first departure from health. Any mother, nurse, or young person guided by the directions which accompany each box of Holloway's Pills, has at once available means for checking disease, purifying the blood, and expelling from the system all gross humours. They are indeed, at all ages the female's tried friend.

Disorders of the Liver with Flatulency and Indigestion.

Loss of appetite and flatulency are usually the forerunners of stomachic disease. These famous Pills exercise the most salutary power in all affections of the liver, and all irregularities of the stomach and bowels; they restore a healthy function to every internal organ, overcome all obstructions, and cast out all impurities.

Weak Stomach.—Impaired Digestion.

The wisest cannot enumerate one tithe of the distressing symptoms arising from enfeebled digestion, all of which may be readily dispelled by these admirable Pills, as they rouse the stomach, liver, and every other organ of digestion to that healthy tone which fully enables them to convert all food and drink to the nourishment of the body—hence, these Pills are the surest strengtheners and the safest restoratives in nervousness, wasting, and chronic debility.

Coughs, Colds, Influenza, and Sore Throats.

For curing diseases of the throat, chest, and lungs, these Pills have established for themselves a pre-eminent world-wide fame, as they purify the blood and regulate its circulation. Coughs, common cold, influenza, bronchitis, asthma, pleurisy, inflammation of the lungs, and consumption in its early stages, are successfully treated with this medicine, particularly if Holloway's Ointment be well rubbed upon the chest and back night and morning.

Holloway's Pills are the best remedy known in the world for the following diseases:—

Ague	Headache	Stone and gravel
Asthma	Indigestion	Secondary symptoms
Bilious complaints	Liver complaints	Tic Douloureux
Blotches on the skin	Lumbago	Ulcers
Bowel complaints	Piles	Veneral affections
Debility	Rheumatism	Worms of all kinds
Dropsy	Detention of urine	Weakness from whatever cause
Female Irregularities	Scrofula or King's Evil	&c., &c.
Gout	Sore Throats	
	Fever of all kinds	

These Pills and Ointment are sold at Professor HOLLOWAY'S Establishment, 533, Oxford-street, London; and by nearly every respectable Vendor of medicine throughout the Civilized World, in boxes and pots, at 1s. 1d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 0d., 11s., 22s., and 33s. each.

Each pot and box of the genuine Medicines bears the British government Stamp, with the words "Holloway's Pills and Ointment, London," engraved thereon.

On the label is the address, 533, Oxford-street, London, where alone they are manufactured.

Beware of all Compounds styled Holloway's Pills and Ointment, with a "New York" Label.

THE YOUNG IDEA.

A little Swedish girl, while walking with her father on a starry night, became absorbed in contemplation of the skies. Being asked what she was thinking of, she replied, "I was thinking if the wrong side of heaven is so glorious what must the right side be?" Exactly so. If the glimpses that we catch here of the summer land unseen afford us such glory and joy what must it be to be there?

SUPREME COURT—CIVIL SIDE.

[Before His Honor the Chief Justice.]

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1877.

CROUCH V. WILDING.—SWALE V. WILDING.

These cases were tried by a common jury, composed of the following gentlemen:—Messrs. H. Birch, (foreman), C. Ferguson, J. Dyson, J. Roser, A. Sweeney, J. McCleery, E. Tonkin, J. Male, Jabez White, E. Cochran, Martin, and J. Thorp.

Both of these actions arose out of the Mokine fire, at which time it is alleged both Crouch and Swale suffered to a great extent through the Defendant's negligence in managing a bush fire he had lighted. Damages were laid at £200 in each case.

The Attorney General, instructed by Mr. Leake, Q.C., appeared for the Plaintiffs. The Defendant conducted his own case.

The Attorney General briefly opened the case for the Plaintiff by stating that the Defendant had so behaved in saving his own property as to endanger that of others. He proposed to proceed with the two cases concurrently.

Patrick Duffy—I am a groom. Remember the Mokine fire. Was in Mr. Wilding's service at the time. Saw Ward Swale there that morning. Recollect his going away with tanks. Heard alarm of fire. Went with the defendant and others to the scene of the fire.

The witness became very uneasy and was evidently under the influence of liquor. His Honor having satisfied himself of the witness's condition directed an inquest to be held to ascertain whether he was in a fit state to give evidence or not. The Bailiff of the Court and a Police Constable being sworn, pronounced the witness to be drunk.

His Honor then committed him for contempt of Court, ordering him to be locked up until the rising of the court. His Honor remarked that he never knew of such a disgraceful exhibition in the Court before, adding that a court of justice could not be kept free from the drinking habits of the place.

Another witness being called the case was proceeded with.

Henry Leeder—I remember the Mokine fire. Was away from home at the time. Had some conversation with the defendant after the fire. The witness then stated what Mr. Wilding had told him as to where the fire commenced. He blamed Barndon for lighting the fire. He told me that he took Chadbourne and Duffy and directed them to light a fire on the Mokine side of the road in the direction of Northam. He named the Eadyne Bridge as the limit on Northam side, from 6 to 8 chains eastward of Lawnswood paddock, about 40 chains from the original fire. He told me he had done it to protect Lawnswood. I told him that Lawnswood did not want protecting, as there was a road between and the wind in his favor. Know Crouch's place and surrounding country. See no necessity for the defendant doing what he has done. Between Crouch's place and where the fire originated the country differs. The road runs just above Crouch's. Three gullies run across the road near Lawnswood paddock. If sufficient hands had been at the scene the gullies would have prevented the fire from spreading. No water was running in the gullies. Have bush-fires nearly every year; find roads and gullies very useful in stopping their progress. I brought an action against Wilding. Heard Wilding say that when he first got to the fire it was about five yards square. He told me that it was blowing strong from the N.W. I know it blew hard where I was at Guildford. I knew Crouch's fence. Should say it was worth from 18s. to 20s. per chain. Cannot say anything as to value of wheat crop. The average price of wheat at that time was from 5s. to 6s. per bushel. I cannot say whether Crouch's property would have been burnt had Wilding not lighted the fire he did. Swail had two haystacks. I should say there were about 23 tons in both stacks. Hay was about £4 10s. per ton at that time.

By the Defendant—We were on good terms before the Mokine fire. You told me that Chadbourne could not face the fire when you sent him to warn them at Mokine. Knew that two of your men and horses were in the direction of Mokine. You told me the instructions you gave to Chadbourne were to save the horses and not mind the rushes. I cannot say what was the particular direction of the fire. I do not know of any ironstone hill that would form a barrier. I do not believe the fire travelled at the rate of a mile in ten minutes. I know the country is thick. You did not light the fire in a proper way. I think if you had not made a fire the original fire would not have reached Crouch's so soon. There was no fireguard round Crouch's place. Although it is proper to have a fireguard I never had one round Mokine. I never had any but common fencing put up. I do not pretend to give a practical opinion as to the spot of fencing.

James Crouch—I am Plaintiff. Am a farmer living near Lawnswood. I have lived there about 17 years. My block of land is on Defendant's run. I was reaping wheat on the day of the fire. Pratt and my daughter were assisting me to reap. I had about four acres of wheat on my Tillage Lease. I had only reaped about an acre when the fire broke out. I left work to go to Byfield; it was about 10 o'clock. The others stopped at work. It was five minutes to 12 when I left dinner. When I came out I looked to see if any fires were about. I went back to Byfield and he called my attention to a small cloud of smoke. I judged it to be about a mile away, somewhere about the Eadyne. There is a hill between me and the Eadyne. I was on the Guildford side from where the road runs in. The old road runs through the middle of the land. Swail came along shortly after and I asked him if he had lighted the fire. I went to the fire across the bush, a distance of half a mile. I could hear it roaring. I then went down to my 100-acre block and found Pratt and daughter at work. I could see but one fire. It did not appear to have reached the Northam side of Eadyne Bridge, to the westward of Mokine. I put my wheat on the fallowed ground. A man named Playle came to me and from what he told me I went to my homestead. Very strong N.W. wind blowing. Playle helped me to put the fire out at my homestead. Next day I visited my 100-acre block and found greatest part of wheat and 90 chains of fencing burnt. I put up about 56 chains. It was in 1870 I commenced to put up the fence. Such a fence would cost about a £1 per chain. Part of the fence belonged to defendant. The portion belonging to me was worth £50. About two acres of wheat were burnt. I reckon the two acres would have yielded 20 bushels to the acre. About an acre of melons was also destroyed, also 70 acres of feed. I have had a few words with the Defendant since the fire. To fire the country the way the Defendant did would set the whole country in a blaze, and if he had not made a fire at all the original fire could have been put out by two or three hands. The road from Mokine to the main road leaves my block to the right. The fire that the defendant lighted was in a direct line for my place. The track on the Northam side of the Eadyne Bridge I should have made use of to stop the fire. Had several years' experience in bush-fires. I cannot say how the fire crossed the road. I was trying to keep the fire back from the Mokine road when I left my homestead. It did not appear to be a continuous fire.

By His Honor—I believe that the fire did not cross by its own influence, but that some one must have thrown it across from the direction in which the wind was blowing. My Tillage Lease might have been burnt whether Wilding had made a fire or not, if it had not been stopped.

By the Defendant—I did accuse Swail of lighting the fire. I have no doubt it was the original fire. I was not aware you had sheep running at Mokine. I know you had a quantity of large stock there. The fire was at the "Basin" when I first saw it. I cannot say exactly when I first thought of seeing you.

By the Attorney General—There is plenty of grass about the Eadyne, also between the "Basin" and the Eadyne.

By the Defendant—There is grass growing on the hill between Eadyne Bridge and the "Basin."

Ward Swale—Reside at Juradine. Remember the fire at Mokine. Was at Lawnswood on that day. Came up from Guildford. Cannot say what time it was when I left. When I got to Chimney Hut Gully Crouch and Byfield were there. If there had been any smoke about on my way down it would not have escaped my notice. They accused me of setting fire to the bush, and directed my attention to smoke. Reached Juradine about dusk; found my stacks burnt down; they contained from 26 to 30 tons of hay. Have bought hay at £5 per ton since the fire. Consider my garden worth £7 or £8, and some harness which was destroyed to be worth £4. Have lived about four years at Juradine. There was a very strong wind that day. I have had some experience at bush-fires. Cannot see that Lawnswood was in any danger.

By the Defendant—You were at Lawnswood when I came and left you there. I was mistaken about the horse. Do not know why you made the fire. The original fire might have burnt my premises. Think it would.

The Court was then adjourned until the following morning.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1877.

James Barndon—On the day of the Mokine fire was driving cattle from Lawnswood, and reached home about 10 or 11 a.m. About 12 o'clock when I first saw the fire. Know the country where the fire broke out, and do not consider there was any necessity to light the fire the defendant did, the wind blowing in the direction it did at the time. Know the Mitcheson's Rock road. (Cannot say what effect the fire defendant lighted might have had. If the original fire had been left alone the results might have been different.)

By the Defendant—It is the nearest from the grassy gap to the "Basin." There was nothing to prevent the fire going in a straight direction to the "Basin." There is an ironstone hill between Eadyne Bridge and the "Basin." There is no grass on the summit of the hill. There is nothing to prevent the original fire taking a direct course to the "Basin." I suppose that was the direction it took. Am not positive whether all the gullies were dried up. Think one was not dry. I have seen fire fly 50 or 60 yards ahead of the rest.

William Lemon—Am a laborer and remember the Mokine fire. Was in the service of Swale. Was alone on the premises that day. About 2 o'clock I first saw smoke. Did not

see flames till about 4 or 5 o'clock. Should say there were from 26 to 30 tons of hay in both stacks. Only managed to save the house. The garden, fences, and stable were burnt. Been farm servant all my life.

Joseph Lockyer—Reside at Northam. Am a farmer, and remember the Mokine fire. Saw Swale's stacks of hay. Should say there were about 26 tons in both stacks. Appeared to be very good hay, but cannot say the value per ton.

By the Defendant—I believe that you were a greater loser than Swale. Believe that a fire at the time of year this occurred would travel with the wind. Would not go over the hill. Nothing to prevent the original fire taking the course it did.

By the Attorney General—Know the Guildford side of road and the Eadyne Bridge. Would enlarge the original fire to light another as the defendant did, but cannot think it would increase its rapidity. The Eadyne Gully empties itself into the Warranine. There is some good feeding country round the hill from the Eadyne.

By the Defendant—The grassy country is to the southward of the hill.

By a Jurymen—Cannot say positively as to the contents of the stacks.

Frederick Morrell—Am a farmer. Measured the fence belonging to Crouch round his tillage lease. There were 84 chains, of which 82 links were standing; two chains damaged. Worth about 19s. 3d. per chain. There were about 20 acres cleared of Tillage Lease.

Walter Pratt—Helped to put up Crouch's fence. Received £2 a month and rations. Was employed three months at it. Cannot say how much corn was burnt. Should say quite two acres.

By the Defendant—The fire came from the direction of the Mokine.

The witness Duffy whose behaviour was so disgraceful on the previous day, was ordered to be again brought up, and being sworn, said—Remember accompanying defendant and others to the fire. Went through slip rails on to Northam road. Could see smoke. Defendant directed me to light along the side of road to end of paddock. Chadbourne lighted towards Northam. The fire was 200 yards from Guildford corner of Lawnswood paddock. The Defendant's children were with him and Chadbourne. Burnt to meet Chadbourne. When I got to Chadbourne the fire was going towards Mokine. The original fire might have been half the size of the Government Garden. Overtook the others at the corner of the paddock. The fire was burning, and no one putting it out. Continued to burn till daylight.

By the Defendant—I was in the stable when I heard the cry of fire. You did not warn me to go to the fire. You did not tell me to get ready when you came back. The fire was at the gully when we got there. Did not see a kangaroo. Did not step with son and daughter. When I first went to the fire I could not see the far side of it. The country was very grassy. You told me to burn towards Northam. The fire was 200 yards off the road in the Mokine direction. Remember your telling Chadbourne that it was a large fire and to try and save the horses if he lost the dray. Chadbourne returned and said he could not get there as the fire had crossed the road. You sent him back the second time. Alice and Tom had gone to their dinner when Chadbourne returned the second time.

By His Honor—I am not quite certain whether Chadbourne had his dinner before Mr. Wilding sent him back the second time.

By the Defendant—Remember Alice and Tommy going to the paddock to give the pony a drink. I say now that you never paid me what you promised.

By a Jurymen—It was grassy on both sides of the road.

This closed the case for the Plaintiffs.

OPENING ADDRESS.

Mr. Wilding opened his case with the following address:—May it please your Honor and gentlemen of the jury—I feel my inability, gentlemen, to lay this case before you in a vivid and clear manner, but as I am so ignorant that the gentlemen of the legal profession cannot, or will not, understand my case, and lay the merits of the case before you, I am compelled to try and do so myself. Before the commencement of these long-to-be-remembered trials, I tried in every conceivable way to come to some amicable arrangement with Mr. Leeder, knowing that he lost a good deal of property as well as myself; and a plan was suggested which would not bear unequally on either of us. At first, Mr. Leeder agreed to settle it mutually by arbitration, but as I did not press him at once he became very cool, and sought advice from every lawyer whether he could not get out of paying at all. He went to Mr. Burt who told him that he was liable, and he had better make it up in the easiest way he could. He was then inclined to do so, and we began to mention different parties who should act as arbitrators, if we could not come to terms ourselves. At about this stage of affairs I made a proposition to him to this effect:—that if he would pay me £300 in three years I would put all the amount I could back to him in his business, and anything he could assist in carrying material for building or fences should be taken from the amount. But mind you, gentlemen, this amount would not represent the losses I sustained, as assessed by a competent man to be above £600. About this time Mr. Leake got hold of the case, and not being on friendly terms with me, from causes that are well known to me,—having exposed some wrongs I received or believed I received at his hands—I resorted to the public print. Is it to be wondered that this gentleman to gratify his feelings would have carried these actions to their present crisis? Or is it to be

wondered at that these two men, Duffy and Chadbourne, who were discharged from my employ for getting drunk and neglecting my horses, after they had been racing, were made easy dupes to carry on these crashing actions. Now, gentlemen, I will call my witnesses, and it will be clearly shown that the fire which burnt down Mokine, was not the one I lighted, and I hope to show you that I am not the villain I have been painted during the proceedings in these trials. You have heard from all the witnesses that the original fire would have burnt Crouch's and Swale's property. Surely, gentlemen, you will give me credit for doing my best under the circumstances, and if one man's mode of dealing with a fire is different to that of another, it does not follow that the plan I adopted was not the best. It has been insinuated that I threw the fire across the road. Now you know, gentlemen, it is simply absurd to say that if a fire is burning on one side of the road, it is not to burn on the other side, without being thrown across. No doubt, many of you, gentlemen, have had some experience in the matter of bush-fires and I only appeal to your common sense in the matter. The manner in which the witnesses have given their evidence will give you an idea of the feeling existing towards me in this matter. There is an animus that must be apparent to you, and the sympathy which has been created for Mr. Leeder has, I fear, done much towards damaging my cause. With these few observations, gentlemen, I will now call my witnesses.

Rosanna Wilding, wife of defendant, deposed—Remember my daughter Alice calling my attention to a fire. My husband went. When Chadbourne returned in the evening he said he could not cross the road on account of the fire.

Alice Wilding, daughter of the defendant, remembered going to the fire. As soon as we got through the slip rails I saw flames. My father told Chadbourne, Duffy, and me to remain there until he returned. He said he wanted to see if the fire had crossed the road. He told Chadbourne to light along the road towards Northam. Cannot say how far the fire was from the road. The fire had burnt up to the road.

By His Honor—There was a space between the road and the fire.

The witness continued—I saw three kangaroos cross the road. After we had done burning, remember my father telling Chadbourne to go to Mokine. He returned, saying the fire had crossed the road. My father sent him back immediately.

Thomas Wilding, son of the defendant, corroborated the statement of the previous witnesses.

John H. Gregory—I am a sheep-farmer and grazier near Mokine. Remember the Mokine fire. On the 16th Dec., 1876, at 12 o'clock, noon, I could not see any smoke of bush-fires. At a quarter to 1, noticed a large fire in the direction of the Warranine. The wind was blowing due north. Five three miles due south of Mokine. It continued to blow for two hours when it veered round to the south-west. I was fearful the fire would reach my place and made as much preparation as I could. Without exception it was the severest fire I have known for the last 30 years. As soon as I had got my corn in, started for Mokine, and from what I heard from my sons I returned home.

By the Defendant—Should think the fire travelled at least 6 or 7 miles per hour. A fire might possibly burn against the wind. A cattle track is a means by which to extinguish a fire, but in your case a track would have been of little use, blowing as it did. The original fire must have done the damage. I cannot see that the fire made by you could have hastened the progress of the original fire at all.

By the Attorney General—My sons told me about the fire. The defendant showed me where he lighted the fire. It is about 100 yards from the corner of paddock to gully; it runs into the Warranine. The original fire was travelling from north to south. The country is thickly grassed. It was about three o'clock when the wind changed.

By a Jurymen—Fire is carried a great distance at times.

William Gillett—Know the country where the fire originated. It is not grassy by the side of the road. I should say the fire lighted by you would have to go round the hill. It could not overtake the original fire.

By the Attorney General—Am acquainted with the country. It is grassy a short distance from the road.

William Tarling—Was living with the Defendant as teamster at the time of the Mokine fire. Was near to Mokine when the fire broke out. It came up from the direction of the "Basin." The fire followed me up the gully.

By the Attorney General—It was about 2 o'clock when I saw the fire.

The Defendant was then asked a few questions as to what stock he had on the run at the time of the fire.

The evidence for the defence being concluded Mr. Wilding briefly summed up his case.

The Attorney General replied.

His Honor on charging the jury, very forcibly explained in what way the jury could arrive at a proper conclusion. He informed them it would be necessary for them to be satisfied that the Plaintiffs' property would not have been destroyed had the defendant not lighted the fire, innocently or not, before they could find a verdict for the Plaintiffs.

The jury were absent about an hour and a half when they returned with a verdict for defendant in both cases.

Printed and published by GEORGE INKREN, at his Office, Avon Terrace, York, to whom all communications must be addressed.

George Inkpen